

STUDY OVERVIEW

DDOT is conducting a feasibility study of the former Glen Echo Trolley line from St. Mary's Place, NW to Galena Place, NW in the Georgetown, Foxhall, and Palisades neighborhoods. The study area includes the Foundry Branch Trestle Bridge in Glover-Archbold Park at Canal Road.

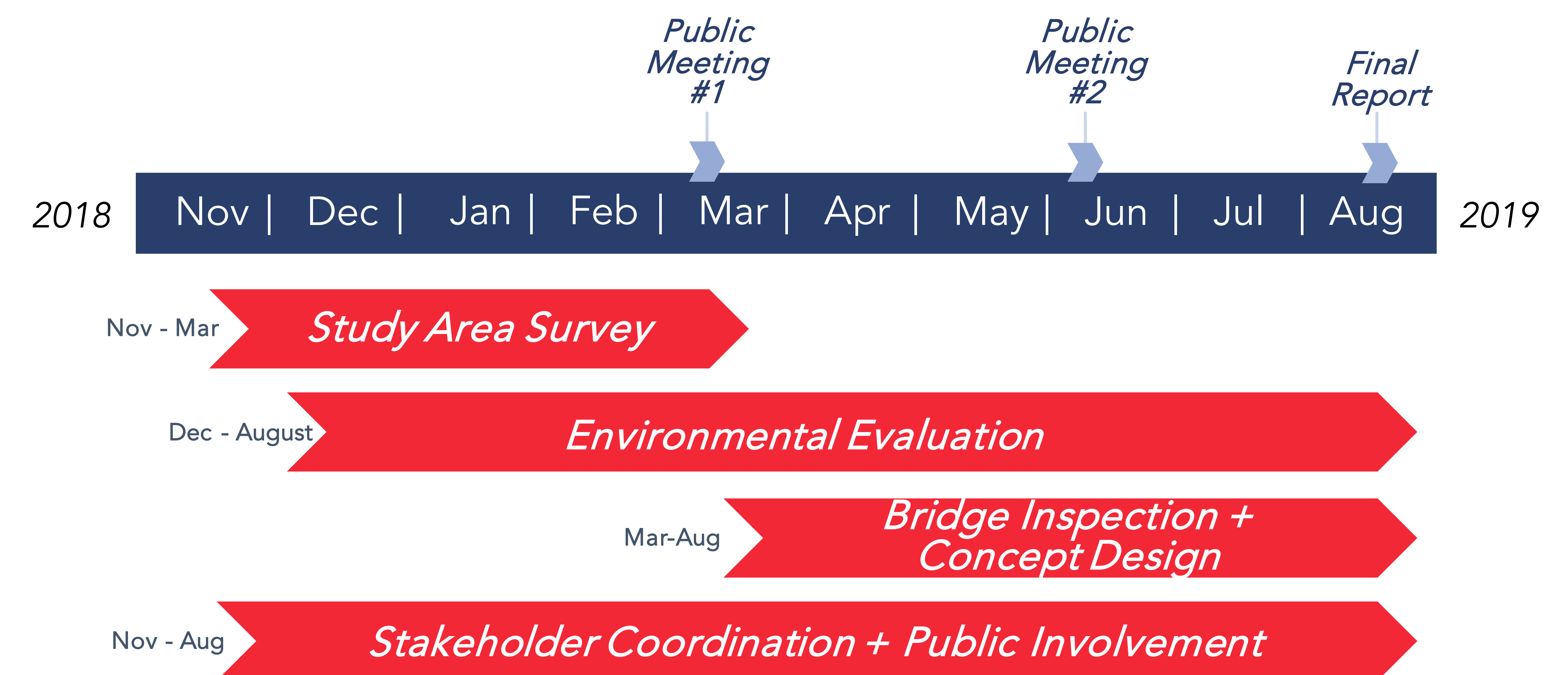
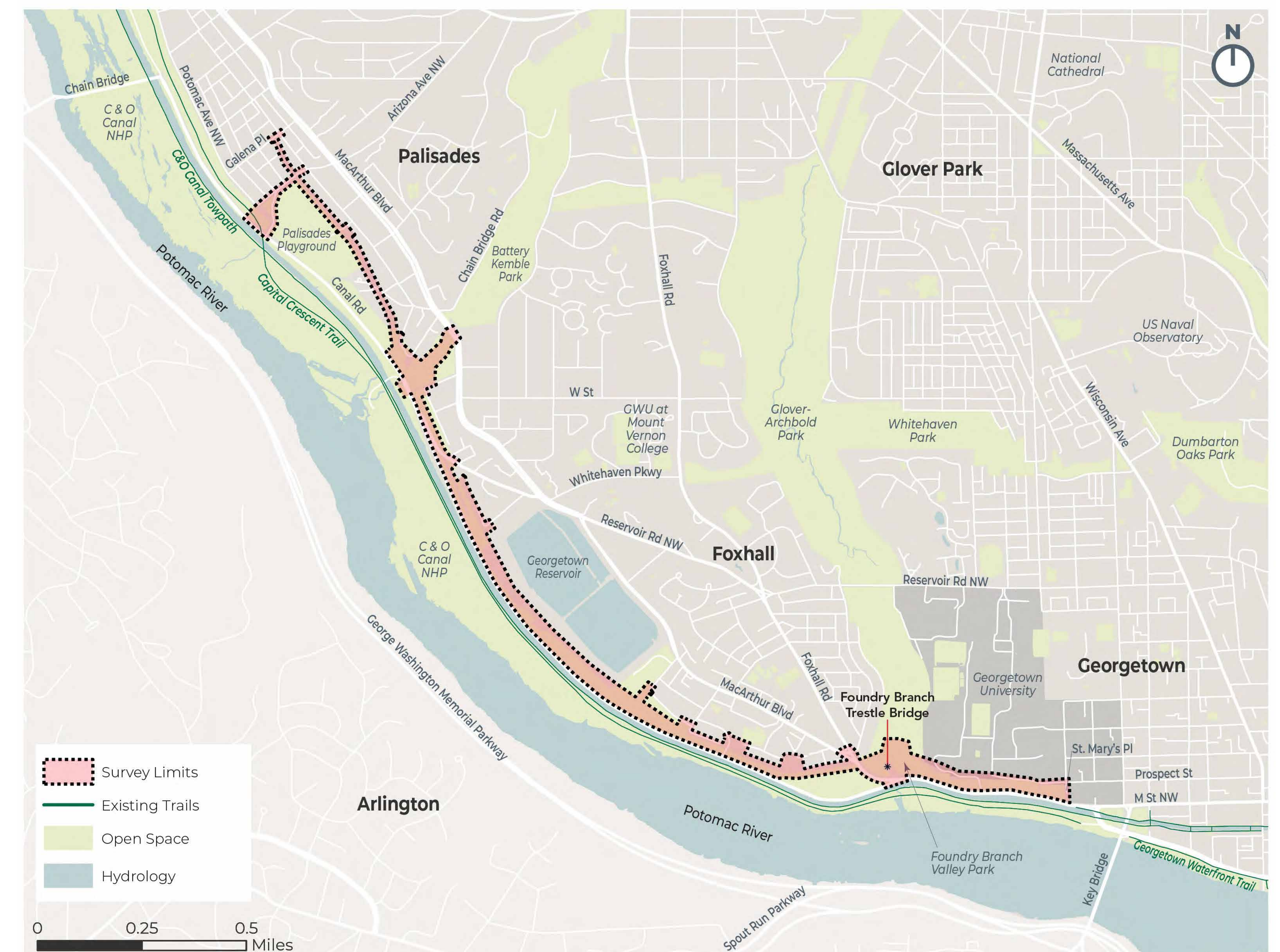
STUDY PURPOSE

The purpose of this feasibility study is to identify critical issues and challenges in developing a multi-use trail for pedestrians and bicyclists of all ages and abilities on the former Glen Echo Trolley line corridor (aka Palisades Trolley Trail). To determine the feasibility of the trail, the following questions will be answered:

- Would the trail provide a transportation function for pedestrians and/or bicyclists?
- Could the Foundry Branch Bridge be rehabilitated to be used as part of the trail? At what cost?
- How would the trail connect to other trails, neighborhoods, and destinations?
- What are the environmental steps and approvals needed to construct the project?
- This feasibility study is a local DDOT project ONLY. Preparation of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) documentation will not be completed as part of the study.

STUDY SCOPE + SCHEDULE

- Site Surveys (condition, boundaries/ownership, utilities, historic resources)
- Structural Inspection of Foundry Branch Trestle Bridge
- Concept Design
 - » Foundry Trestle Bridge Rehabilitation/Reuse
 - » Trail Design/Trail Crossings
- Next Steps for Environmental Approvals
- It is anticipated the feasibility study will be completed in 2019



HISTORIC CONTEXT:

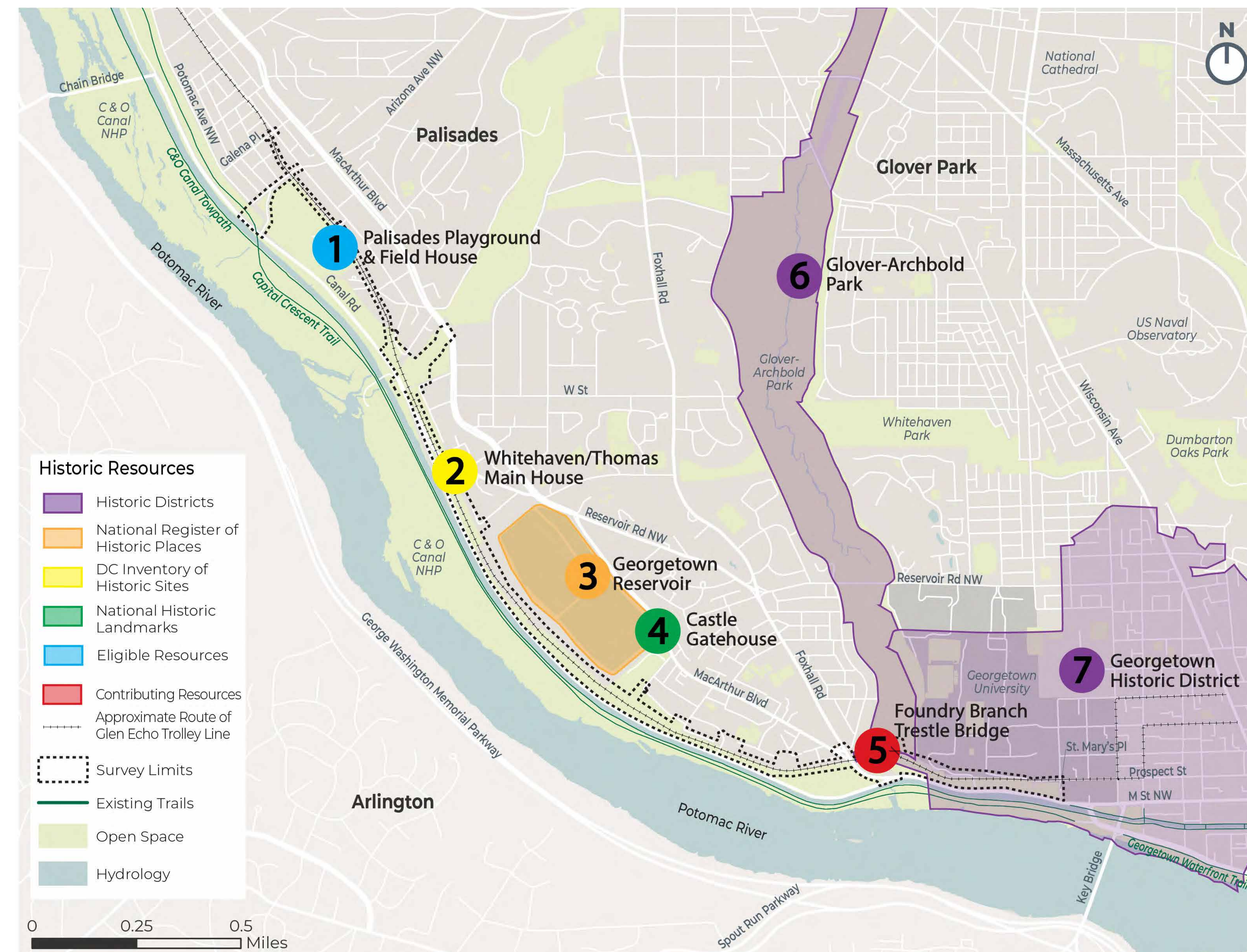
FOUNDRY TRESTLE BRIDGE + THE GLEN ECHO TROLLEY LINE

The **Foundry Trestle Bridge** is a steel trestle streetcar bridge located in Glover-Archbold Park. It is a **contributing element of the Glover-Archbold Park Historic District**, which is listed in the DC Inventory of Historic Sites and the National Register of Historic Places



BRIDGE INSPECTION

- « Project team will conduct an inspection of the Foundry Branch Trestle Bridge and create a comprehensive assessment of its structural condition
- « Based on the inspection, the project team will evaluate options to rehabilitate the Bridge for use by bicycles and pedestrians as part of the Palisades Trolley Trail



Five eligible or listed historic resources within the project area:

- 1 Palisades Playground and Field House
- 2 Whitehaven/Thomas Main House
- 3 Georgetown Reservoir
- 4 Castle Gatehouse (part of the Washington Aqueduct National Historic Landmark)
- 5 Foundry Branch Trestle Bridge
- 6 Glover-Archbold Park
- 7 Georgetown Historic District

HISTORIC TIMELINE



1896

Constructed on the Washington & Great Falls Electric Railway Company's trolley line between Georgetown and Cabin John, MD (commonly referred to as the Glen Echo Trolley Line)¹

1909

Potomac Heights Land Company was established to further develop and promote the Palisades neighborhood for prospective home buyers²

1920s

First significant residential development along the trolley line near Galena Place³

1960

Streetcar service was terminated and the trolley bridge was taken out of service⁴

1980s

Trolley bridges at Arizona, Battery Kemble/Maddox Branch, and Clark Place were removed for construction of a cross-town water main

1997

Bridge was acquired by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) from D.C. Transit as part of a court case

2003

WMATA fenced off ends of the bridge to deter trespassers

2008

WMATA begins looking for potential owners of the bridge

2014

WMATA structural analysis confirms the trestle is in poor condition

2016

WMATA installs fences to restrict access under the bridge due to safety concerns

2018

D.C. Historic Preservation Review Board denies WMATA a raze permit for the bridge

Image Sources:
1. 1939 Entrance to Glen Echo Park (Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division)
2. 1894 Baist Map (Plate 13 and 14) of the four Palisades Subdivisions
3. Traceris, 2019
4. Leonard W. Rice, collection of Md. Rail Heritage Library

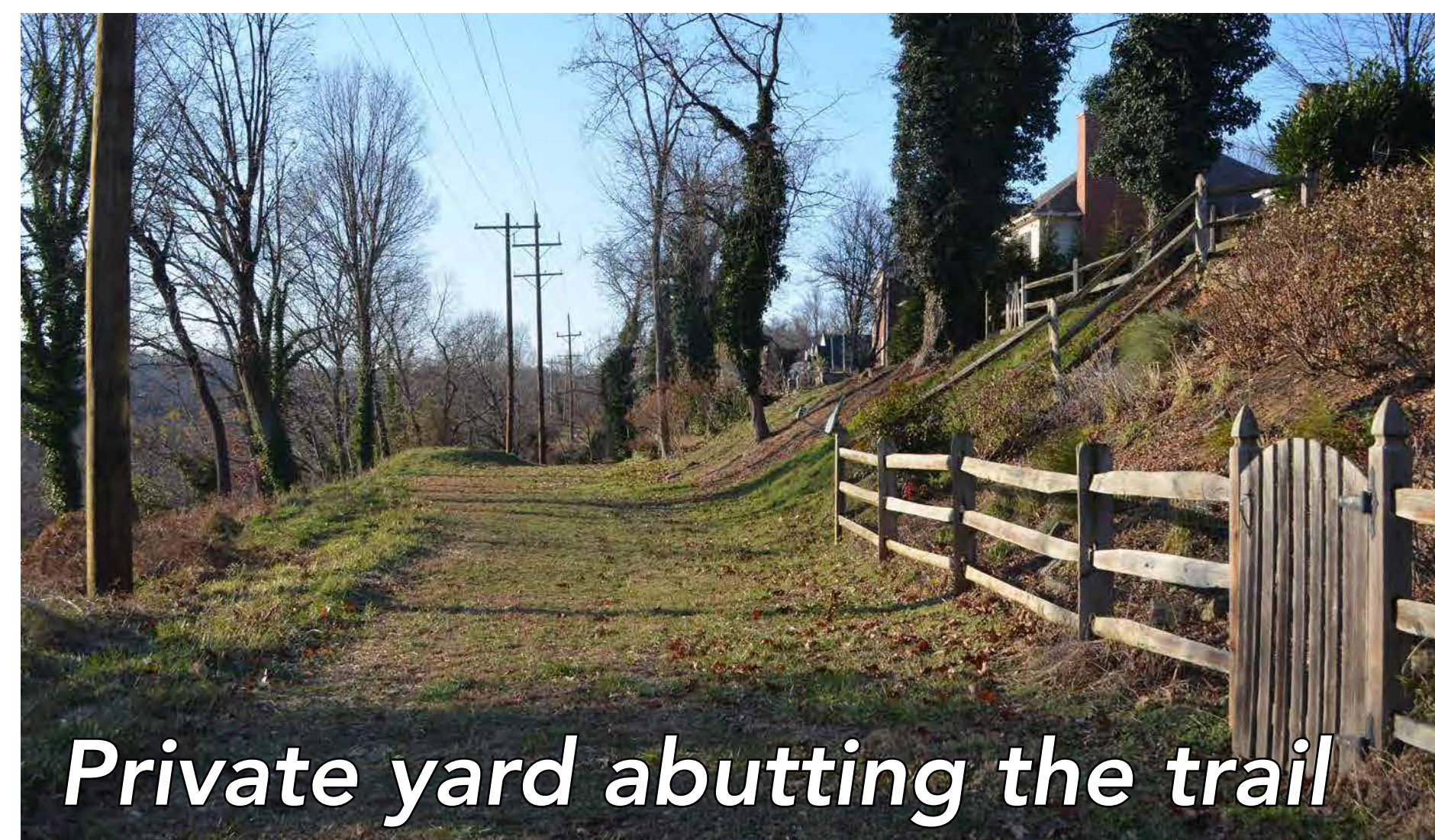


We want your feedback!

Please take the survey at

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TROLLEYTRAIL>

CURRENT PALISADES TRAIL CONDITIONS + OWNERSHIP



Private yard abutting the trail



Arizona Avenue Bridge



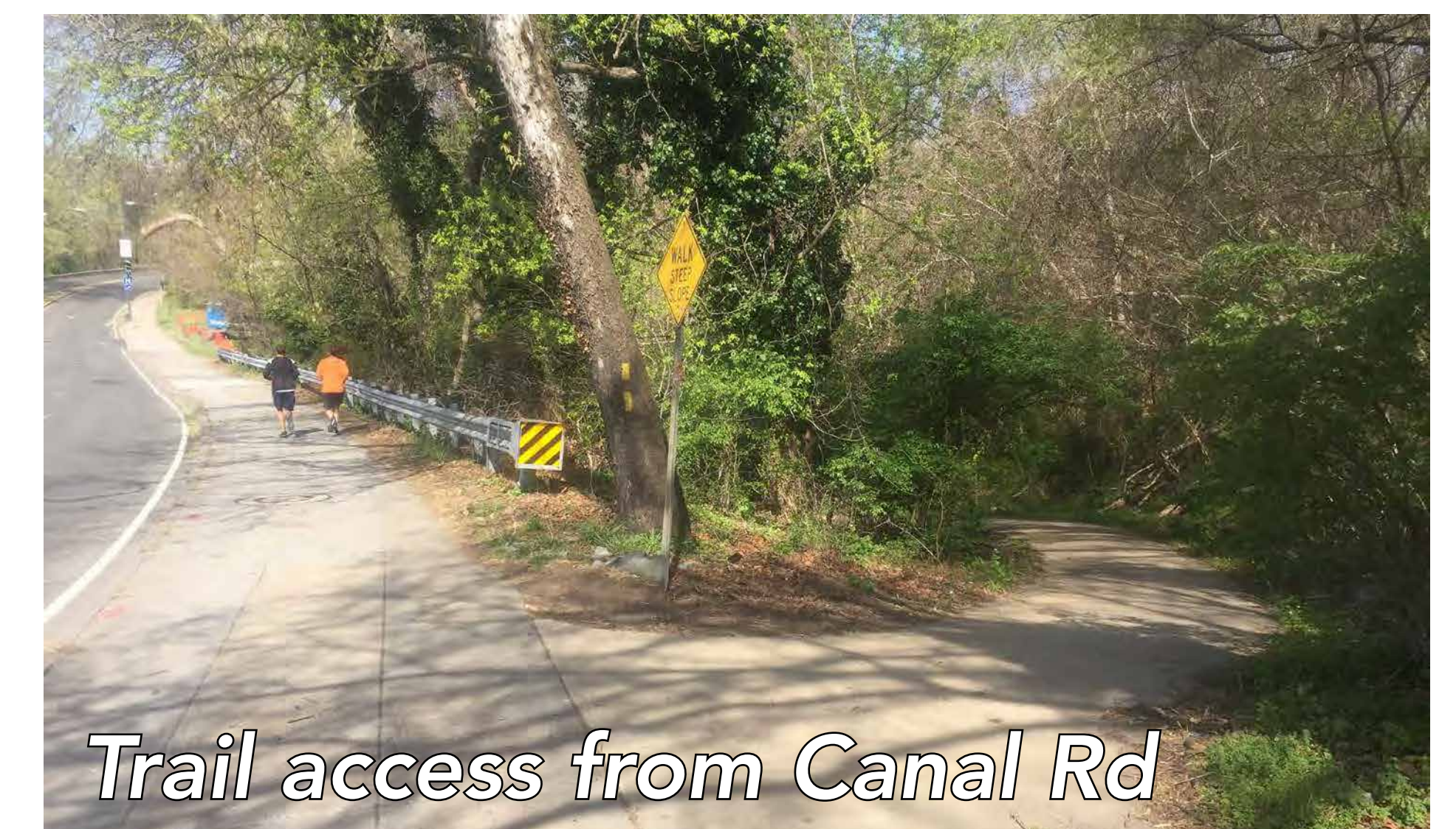
Steep drop-offs



Flat trail area west of Foxhall Rd



Foundry Trestle Bridge



Trail access from Canal Rd

COMMENTS

HOW DO YOU CURRENTLY USE THE TRAIL (E.G. RUNNING, DOG WALKING, ETC.)? PLACE A DOT ON THE MAP WHERE YOU ACCESS THE TRAIL



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BICYCLE + PEDESTRIAN ACCESS ISSUES

- Existing trails parallel the study area - Capitol Crescent Trail and the C&O Tow Path – but due to topography, they cannot be accessed easily by the Georgetown and Palisades neighborhoods
- Streets connecting the Palisades to the Georgetown commercial corridor are only suitable for more experienced bicyclists
- No on-street bike lanes or protected bike lanes that provide access from the study area into Georgetown and then Downtown
- Inconsistent pedestrian environment with missing sidewalks and fast-moving vehicular traffic on key connectors (e.g. Canal Road)
- Clusters of Vision Zero safety comments along MacArthur Boulevard, Reservoir Road, and Canal Road
- Approximately 1,700 households within 1/4 mile of the study area do not have access to protected bike lanes



COMMENTS

WHERE DO YOU CURRENTLY WALK + BIKE IN THE STUDY AREA? ARE THERE AREAS YOU ARE NOT COMFORTABLE WALKING OR BIKING?



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PALISADES TRAIL CROSSINGS

MISSING BRIDGES

Glen Echo trolley bridges at Clark Place, Reservoir Road, and Maddox Branch/Discovery Creek were removed during the 1980s for construction of DC Water's crosstown water main. These locations will be analyzed during the feasibility study and new bridge crossings will be considered.



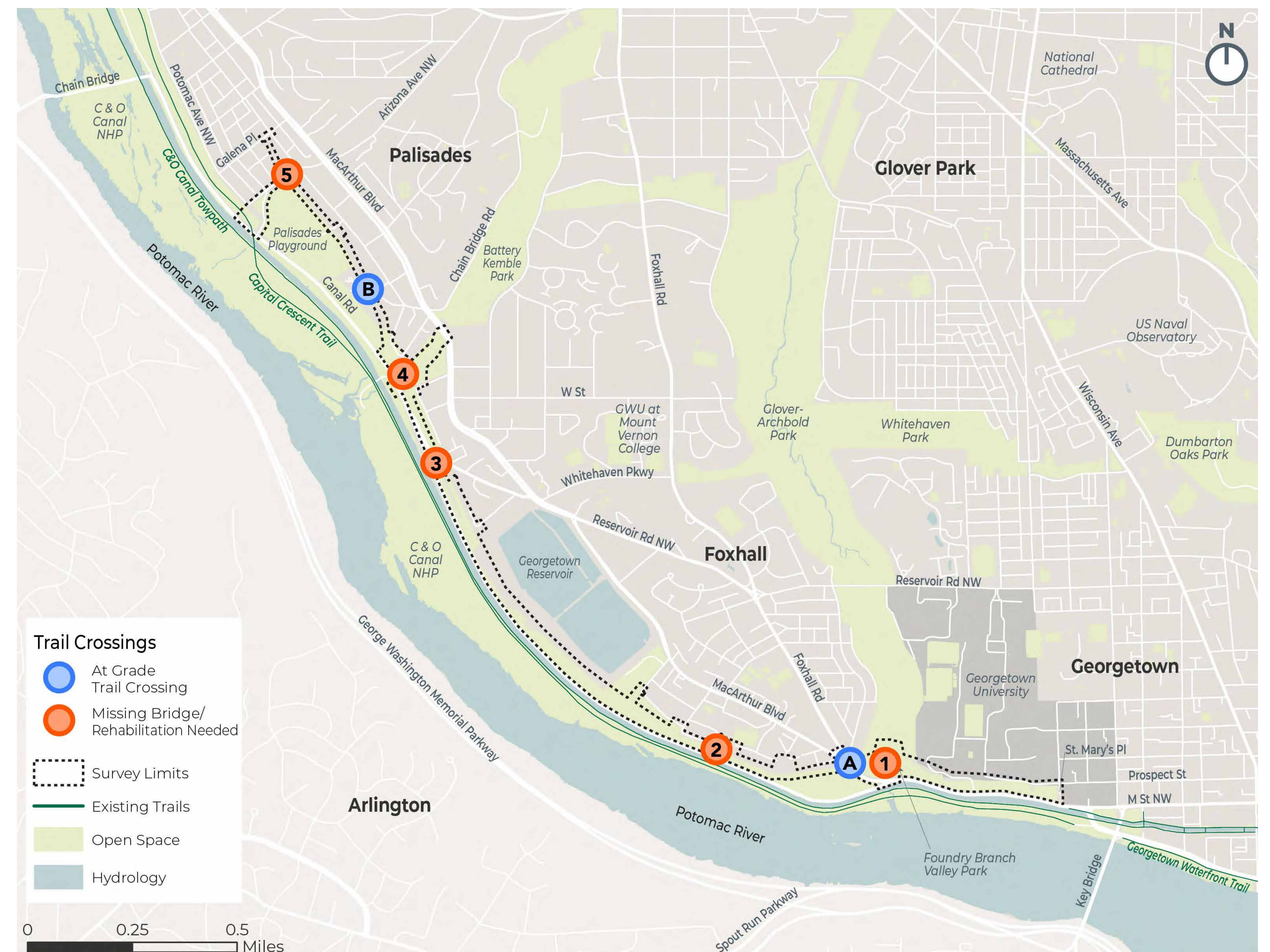
Clark Place



Reservoir Road

COMMENTS

HOW DO YOU USE THE TRAIL WITHOUT THESE CROSSINGS TODAY?



BRIDGE CROSSINGS

- 1 Foundry Branch Trestle Bridge
Existing; requires rehabilitation
- 2 Clark Place NW
- 3 Reservoir Road NW
- 4 Maddox Branch ("Discovery Creek")
- 5 Arizona Avenue NW
Existing; DDOT reconstructing

AT-GRADE CROSSINGS

- A MacArthur Boulevard
- B Chain Bridge Road



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POTENTIAL TRAIL CONNECTIONS



Capital Crescent Trail Bridge over C&O Canal Towpath



Georgetown Commercial District



Connections to Other Trails:

- A** Capital Crescent Trail at Arizona Avenue
- B** Capital Crescent Trail at Canal Road/Abner Cloud House
- C** C&O Canal Towpath at the Key Bridge

Connections to Destinations:

- 1** Fletcher's Cove
- 2** C&O Canal National Historic Park
- 3** Georgetown University
- 4** Francis Scott Key Memorial Park
- 5** Georgetown Commercial District/Downtown
- 6** Georgetown Waterfront Park

COMMENTS

WHAT ARE THE OTHER KEY CONNECTIONS FOR THE TRAIL?



PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE AND CONNECTING TRAIL OVER ARIZONA AVE., NW

From Galena Place to Sherier Place/Nebraska Avenue N.W. loop

Project Scope:

- Reconstruction of a superstructure and rehabilitation of substructure of 110 foot long pedestrian bridge over Arizona Avenue, NW and connecting trail improvements to include conceptual design, recommended surface materials, and bridge treatments.

Project Status:

- Preliminary recommendations & design completed.
- Feasibility study for East Ramp is completed.
- Public meeting held April 2018
- Traffic study for Arizona Ave/Sherier Pl Ped signal is underway

Discussion Points:

- Bridge options
- Connecting trail treatments
- Additional sidewalk improvements
- East Ramp public acceptance issues

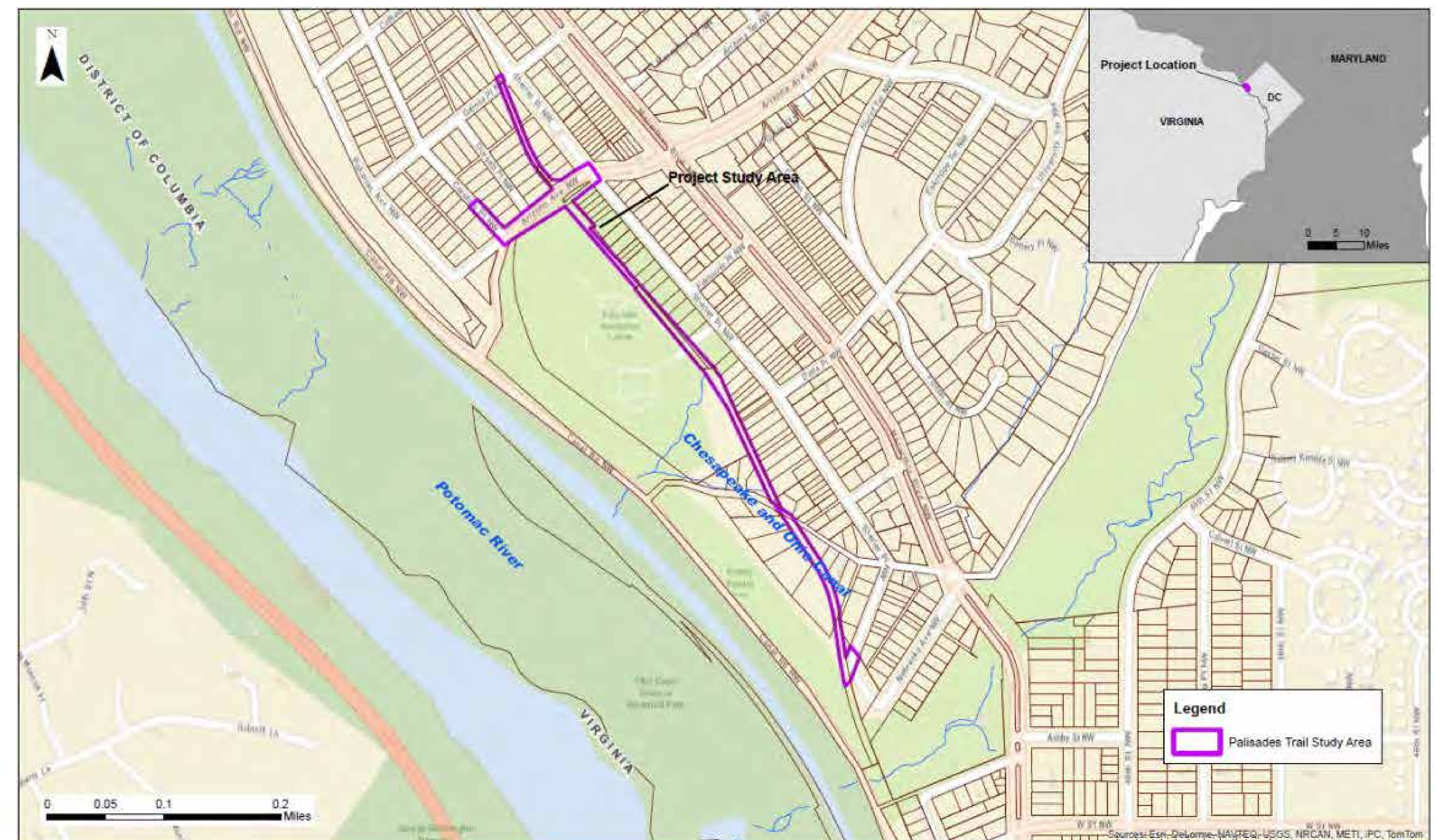
Project Schedule:

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Project Started | August 2017 |
| Conceptual Design completed | December 2018 |
| Final Design Start Date | Late Spring 2019 |
| Construction Start Date | TBD |

Project Budget: TBD (Design & Construction)



Existing pedestrian bridge



Project Area Map